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SIHANOUK EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR GISCARD RECOGNITION OF RGNUC

LD160835 PARIS LE MONDE IN FRENCH 16 APR 75 P 6 LD

(UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK EXPRESSES HIS 'PROFOUND GRATITUDE' TO MR GISCARD D'ESTAING")

(TEXT) ON THE AFTERNOON OF SATURDAY, 12 APRIL, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE THE RGNUC. A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATES THAT "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE RGNUC INVOLVES IPSO FACTO THE CLOSURE OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC MISSION STILL IN EXISTENCE IN PARIS."

ON SUNDAY PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK ADDRESSED A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TO EXPRESS HIS "PROFOUND GRATITUDE." THE TELEGRAM CONTINUES: "FRANCE AND CAMBODIA ARE UNITED BY TIME-HONORED LINKS OF FRIENDSHIP AND MULTIFORM COOPERATION. I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE CONSOLIDATION OF THESE LINKS, THE BLOSSOMING OF OUR FRIENDSHIP AND THE FORTHCOMING DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCO-KHMER COOPERATION OF WHICH YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AN ADMIRABLE ARCHITECT."

IN PHNOM PENH, MR LONG BORET, REPUBLIC SUPREME COMMITTEE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER, DECLARED HIMSELF "VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE FRENCH DECISION TO ASK THE KHMER AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TO LEAVE FRENCH TERRITORY, AND THE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE THE RGNUC."

IN DUBLIN, WHERE THE EEC FOREIGN MINISTERS MET LAST WEEKEND, SOME OF FRANCE'S PARTNERS CRITICIZED MR SAUVAGNARGUES FOR RECOGNIZING PRINCE SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM. THE FRENCH MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT HAD TIME, AS EVENTS WERE MOVING VERY FAST.

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